

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6743

To require the Secretary of Defense to establish a pilot program under which the Secretary may furnish a service dog to any member of the Armed Forces with a qualifying disability.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 31, 2008

Mr. JONES of North Carolina introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Defense to establish a pilot program under which the Secretary may furnish a service dog to any member of the Armed Forces with a qualifying disability.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be referred to as the “Department of
5 Defense Service Dog Pilot Program Act of 2008”.

6 **SEC. 2. SERVICE DOG PILOT PROGRAM.**

7 (a) REQUIREMENT TO ESTABLISH PILOT PRO-
8 GRAM.—The Secretary of Defense shall establish and

1 carry out a pilot program to furnish service dogs to mem-
2 bers of the Armed Forces in accordance with this section.

3 (b) ELIGIBILITY.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—Under the pilot program es-
5 tablished under subsection (a), the Secretary of De-
6 fense may furnish a service dog to any member of
7 the Armed Forces—

8 (A) who has a service-connected disability,
9 including a disability that limits mobility; and

10 (B) for whom a service dog may be of sub-
11 stantial benefit in the treatment of such dis-
12 ability.

13 (2) NOTICE.—The Secretary of Defense shall
14 provide information about the pilot program estab-
15 lished under subsection (a) to each member of the
16 Armed Forces who may be eligible for such pilot
17 program.

18 (c) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary of Defense shall
19 prescribe regulations to carry out this section, including
20 regulations regarding—

21 (1) eligibility for the pilot program established
22 under subsection (a);

23 (2) standards for service dogs; and

24 (3) standards for service dog providers.

25 (d) REPORTS.—

1 (1) INTERIM REPORT.—Not later than 180
2 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the
3 Secretary of Defense shall submit to the Committees
4 on Armed Services of the House of Representatives
5 and the Senate an interim report on the progress of
6 the pilot program established under subsection (a).

7 (2) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than 2 years
8 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
9 retary of Defense shall submit to the Committees on
10 Armed Services of the House of Representatives and
11 the Senate a final report on the results of the pilot
12 program. The report shall include such recommenda-
13 tions as the Secretary considers appropriate.

14 (e) DURATION.—The Secretary of Defense shall ter-
15 minate the pilot program established under subsection (a)
16 on the date that is 2 years after the date of the enactment
17 of this Act.

18 (f) CONTINUATION OF BENEFITS.—Notwithstanding
19 subsection (e), the Secretary of Defense shall continue to
20 carry out the pilot program established under subsection
21 (a) to the extent necessary to continue to provide benefits
22 to each member of the Armed Forces who has received
23 a service dog under the pilot program.

24 (g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1 (1) SERVICE DOG.—The term “service dog”
2 means any dog individually trained to do work or
3 perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with
4 a disability.

5 (2) SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITY.—The
6 term “service-connected disability” means a dis-
7 ability incurred or aggravated in the line of duty as
8 a member of the Armed Forces.

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